

The Parent Teacher Association at
The Rose E. Scala School
P. S. 71/Preparatory Academy at 71
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2017-2018 Executive Board

Elizabeth Cruz
President

Jasmine Ausanio
Recording Secretary

Jean Distefano
Treasurer

General Membership Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2017

The meeting was called to order by the president, Ms. Elizabeth Cruz, at 7:07 PM. There were 54 people in attendance, which met the quorum. The membership and guests rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The president greeted everyone and thanked them for coming.

Minutes: September's meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed. The minutes were accepted as presented by the membership.

President's Report: Ms. Cruz reported that she attended a PAPEC meeting and there will be a Title I meeting upcoming on October 31st.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer, Jean Distefano, presented the monthly expenses of the PTA. The opening balance was \$8,334.25. The closing balance was \$7,937.83.

Correspondence/Report of the Committees: *None reported.*

Old Business: Nominations for PTA Vice President and Correspondence Secretary vacancies were opened to be taken from the floor. One parent self-nominated for Vice President: Rafael Dominguez. There were no other nominations and, therefore, uncontested.

New Business: Volunteers were requested to sign up or email the PTA. Voting took place to have meetings at 6 pm prior to other events scheduled in conjunction with the PTA meeting, such as next month's honor roll assembly. Vote was passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers: Ms. Josephine, Office of School Health (School Nurse), spoke about the necessity of the Medical Administration Form for any child needing medication in school: for asthma, allergies, diabetes (forms are available); immunization forms must be filled out and current – meningococcal vaccine must be given before high school, physicals must be up to date, especially if student is new to the country.

Mr. D'Oro, school dean, explained that the school has three deans, and all are K-8 deans. He concentrates more on K-5, mostly 3-5. Deans are providing social emotional guidance; no longer just punishment, they are using strategies and counseling. Parents are partners in helping the kids; deans make phone calls home to work together to about choices the child has made. Please communicate with deans whenever there is something going on so they can be aware of why a student may be struggling emotionally. They are there to support the student and the parents, as well as teachers and school aides. Deans are also present at lunch to make sure everyone is safe.

Ms. Susan Ammarito, supervising school aide this year, has been at PS 71 for 28 years. They are using new strategy to check in on kids and are able to see how things are going from the moment they arrive in the morning. There is one aide assigned to each class. They have structured recess for safety. Things are getting better and hopefully will continue to get better.

Mr. Gary Wheeler & Ms. Farah Despeignes, Community Education Council board members, spoke about their role on the CEC. There are supposed to be 11 board members, they need more. Please engage in advocating for your children by getting involved. Vote by CEC will

take place in December regarding the proposed zoning. Town hall meeting on Nov. 20th will be held at Bronx Delta School instead of at PS 72.

Mr. Max Applebaum & Ms. Nathifa Charles, Office of District Planning, spoke about the addition of 344 seats at PS 14. No current students will be affected by rezoning but incoming students will be. Plan is to remove the trailers and shrink the PS 71 zone. There will be a meeting on November 14th and voting will take place on December 20th. Based on Kindergarten zone, they are thinking of shrinking the zone by 200 students but we won't see the implementation of the changes right away. It takes time to see the results of rezoning because it's gradual. Current building use is 150%, they want to bring it down to 130%.

Mrs. Miranda shared that she wanted to make sure the information is clear regarding rezoning. She spoke about overcrowding. When she was a classroom teacher about 18 years ago there were 19-22 students, now we have 32, which is capacity. Because we are a K-8 model, it wasn't designed that way. They had to create multi-purposed rooms: tech lab, dance, culinary. There are a lot of students (1,700) in the building. It takes 7-9 minutes for everyone to exit the school during a fire drill. The rezoning is looking to distribute students to campuses where there is more space.

General Discussion: Multiple questions were raised regarding the rezoning. The answers are as follows: If a student has a sibling who isn't yet in the school and the rezoning puts the younger child in another school, there possibly will be a sibling grandfathering as a zoned sibling rule. However, for middle school that would not apply because middle schools are not zoned.

They have to get back to us on whether current students will be permitted to transfer to the new zoned school, with their younger sibling or otherwise.

Current students will have the right to remain in the school until the terminal grade (the grade at which the school ends).

A draft map will be presented at the November 14th meeting.

It's going to take some time for enrollment to go down before they can remove trailers. They may be able to remove them as they become vacant.

The CEC business meeting time is at 6, the regular meeting is at 7:15 pm for November 14th and December 20th. They are not sure what time the town hall meeting will be.

For students who live in Country Club, they are looking at reducing the amount of bussing to not create hardships, but they will work with the Office of Pupil Transportation. Qualifying for bussing changes after 2nd grade (½ mile to 1 ½ miles) for the older grades, 3rd to 6th, the distance becomes greater (1 mile to 1 ½ miles) to qualify for the school bus.

When asked about the amount of new buildings that have gone up in the neighborhood, school zoning and student population, they are now beginning to take into consideration the permits granted for projected housing units and how the new buildings will affect future kindergarten students.

Regarding new families moving into the area with multiple children (not "anticipated kindergarteners"), they said they will also take into consideration the census block for each area.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Miranda briefly reviewed the October issue of "In the Loop" and she discussed the baseline assessments that are used to differentiate teaching. The Recipe for Reading phonics for K – 2 curricula is being used to continue to promote reading and writing. Leveled books are coming in for the leveled book room where teachers will be able to take books out for their

classes. They are implementing NTN, KEMS, SOLVE curriculums for math. We continue to be a lab site school for Social Studies in the middle school – the Five Forever Factors help students think like historians. We are trying to engage our families. This month: Cooking & Dancing night, Hispanic Heritage night, Urban Advantage with the Science dept. went to the Bronx Zoo and New York Botanical Garden, we utilize our Cool Culture partnership. There was a College Access for All trip – 7th graders went to visit John Jay College. The Fall Fest is from 10-2 on Saturday. There will be a writing celebration on the 31st for those who wrote in their writer's notebooks over the summer. "Inspired to Read" book review for the principal is to promote literacy. The Academic Intervention (AIS) program has begun, on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The English as a New Language (ENL) program started for students. The Parent ENL program will start in November and go through May. Letters will go home about it. The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) had crazy sock day for hurricane relief; they raised about \$500. On November 6th, there will be a PPO (Principal Performance Observation) and Quality Review, which is a supervisory visit from the District Superintendent and team. She will give us feedback on how we are doing. There will be Title I meetings on October 31st during the day. If necessary, they will follow up with other meeting times. Now lunch is universal (free for everyone), but lunch forms must be filled out for school to qualify.

The door prize, a note caddy and pencils and tickets to AMC theater, was won by ticket holder of #945073.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Prepared by Jasmine Ausanio, *PTA Recording Secretary*.